

REMARKS

Claims 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the limitation “the fiber reinforced layer” in line 2 lacks antecedent basis. In response, Applicant amended claim 5 to depend from claim 4. Claim 4 is amended to include a fiber reinforced layer. Based on these amendments, withdrawal of the §112 indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being anticipated by Wohlfarth (DE 3417528). In response, Applicant amended independent claim 1 to clarify that the run-flat support member has at least one apex, and that the run-flat support member is secured to the rim, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 calls for, among other things, the run-flat support member to be secured to a rim. In the outstanding rejection, the Examiner asserts that the run-flat support member of Wohlfarth is coaxial with a rim 42. However, the run-flat support member 50 of Wohlfarth is not secured to the rim 42. Instead, the run-flat support member 50 is secured to the tread portion 16. For at least this reason, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Additionally, claim 1 calls for the retention groove to be faced at least to an apex of the run-flat support member. The retention groove between elements 50 and 56 of Wohlfarth is not faced at least to an apex of the run-flat support member 50. For this additional reason, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wohlfarth. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1.

Wohlfarth fails to disclose or suggest a run-flat support member secured to a rim, or a retention groove that is faced to an apex of the run-flat support member. Accordingly, since Wohlfarth fails to disclose or suggest this feature, the rejection is improper, and should be withdrawn, which is respectfully requested.

New claim 6 is added and is based on previous claim 4. Claim 6 now clarifies that a reinforcement rubber layer is inserted between a bottom of the retention groove and a carcass layer. Allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1.

New claims 7-8 are added and further clarify that the retention groove is discontinuous in a circumferential direction of the tire, or has one or more salient portions in the retention groove. New claim 9 clarifies that the salient portions are formed in a circumferential direction of the tire. Applicant earnestly solicits allowance of new claims 7-9 for the reasons provided above and also based on the features recited in these claims. For example, the Examiner asserts that Wohlfarth has a groove between elements 50 and 56. However, the groove is not shown formed in a discontinuous manner in the circumferential direction of the tire. The retention groove between elements 50 and 56 does not have one or more salient portions, or salient portions formed in a circumferential direction of the tire.

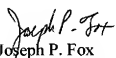
Accordingly, allowance of new claims 6-9 is respectfully requested for the above-described reasons.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

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